

GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM
CRITERIA WORKSHEET

Participant: _____

Application No: _____

Land being offered is currently being utilized as a grazing operation or hayland (excluding annual hay species) and is 40 ac. or larger in size. The land includes grasslands; land that contains forbs; shrub land, including improved rangeland and pastureland; or land that is located in an area that has been historically dominated by grassland, forbs, and shrub lands when these lands have the potential to enhance plant and animal biodiversity. Yes ☐ No ☐ [If "yes" continue. If "no", discontinue ranking and notify the applicant the land is ineligible for the grass Grassland Reserve Program (GRP).]

Type of GRP agreement offered (checked one): Rental Agreement ____ 10-year ____ 15 year ____ 20 year ____ 30 year
Easement ____ 30 year ____ Permanent

Summary of offered land (land types other than rangeland, pastureland and grazed forest are not eligible to be offered or enrolled):

Enter nearest whole acre

Total acres offered _____ ac.

Acres of native cover (native sod never been tilled) _____ ac.

Acres needing restoration _____ ac.

Enter to nearest whole dollar

Estimated restoration costs \$ _____ (Total cost share required for restoration)

Estimated total cost of rental agreement \$ _____ (Annual rental x total acres x length of contract)

Estimated total cost of easement \$ _____ (Estimated easement cost x total acres)

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Circle correct Value

Score

A. THREATS TO CONVERSION – At least 55% of the points must be for conversion risk. (GRP Manual
Page 14.

Threat to conversion – Urban land ⁱ

Land that according to the land mapping unit were classified within soil capability units I – III 50

North-East(Carolina, Canovanas, Loiza), Caguas in the Central-East, Ponce in the south,
and Mayaguez in the West.

Land is located in one or more listed municipalities in attachment in FSA NOTICE No.
Grp-1. 25

Land is not located in listed municipalities 0

Score _____

1. Threat to conversion – cultivation [Percent of offered grassland that could be converted
to built-up]

Land that according to the FOTG Section II, its Soil Mapping and other prime farm lands
were classified within Soil Capability Units I – II - III and other prime farm lands. 30

Land that according to the FOTG Section II and its Soil Mapping Unit were classified within Soil
Capability Units V- VI - VII 15

EVALUATION CRITERIA (continued)**Circle correct Value****Score**

2. **Threat to conversion – invasive plants** [Area must have presence of, or adjacent to land with invasive species present. (See attachment No. 2). Participant will be required to remove and maintain the control of these species for the life of the agreement. Restoration cost-share may be available for the initial treatment within two years of enrollment in the GRP. Following the initial treatment the participant will have to maintain the population of these plants at a rate of 15% plant composition for the field in which they are present.

Species present on offered acres at or less than 30% of offered acres impacted
 Species present on offered acres at 30% - 50% of offered acres impacted
 Species present on offered acres at 51 – 75% offered acres impacted
 Species present at ≥76% offered acres impacted

15
 10
 5
 1

Score

Total points for threat to conversion (A.1.+A.2.+A.3.=Total) Maximum allowed is 95 points**Total Score A.** _____**B. Calculate maximum points allowed for non-conversion considerations****Circle correct Value****Score****NON-CONVERSION CONSIDERATIONS**

- 1) **Enrollment option selected by applicant.** [Weight is assigned to the option providing the greatest opportunity to meet the long-term objectives of the program.]

☐ Permanent Easement
☐ 30 - year easement
☐ 30 - year rental agreement
☐ 20 - year rental agreement
☐ 15 – year rental agreement
☐ 10 – year rental agreement

20
 15
 10
 5
 2
 1

Score

- 2) **Acres of grazing land to be protected, restored, or enhanced** [Area enrolled will have Prescribe Grazing (528A)&/or Forage Harvest Management (511) planned and maintained in the conservation plan for the life of the agreement/easement. Exclusion from the easement may not exceed 1 undeveloped 2 ac. site per 50 acres offered.

151 – more acres
 101 – 150 acres
 40 – 100 acres

10
 5
 2

Score

EVALUATION CRITERIA (continued)

Circle correct Value

Score

- 3) Location Significance – Proximity of area offered to other protected acres such as refuges and wildlife Management areas, national and State forests, natural areas, or permanent conservation easements**
[Protected areas must be 40 ac. or greater in size]

Area is immediately adjacent to a protected area	10
Area is between ¼ and ½ mile of a protected area	6
Area is between ½ and 2 mile of a protected area	4
Area is greater than 2 miles of a protected area	1

Score

- 4) Area offered includes predominately native pastureland** [Area must be protected From uncontrolled livestock use by prescribe Grazing (528A), Forage Harvest Management (511), or Use Exclusion (472) in order to receive points.]

Area offered is 75% or greater native grasslands that has never been tilled or re-established By planting.	10
Area offered is 24% or greater native grasslands, abandoned cropland fields that have Established native tree plants through natural regeneration.	5

Score

- 5) Area offered will include restoration or enhancement of stream corridors/riparian zones**
[All riparian areas must be protected from uncontrolled livestock access by Prescribed Grazing (528A) and/or Use Exclusion (472) in order to receive points.]

Circle correct Value

Score

Stream corridor/riparian zone will be restored with future protection	10
Stream/corridor/riparian zone will be restored without future protection	0

Score

- 6) Essential habitat for at risk wildlife**

Area offered is a known habitat for endangered and threaten species and benefits to the species will occur through development of a conservation plan that addresses habitat requirements for the identified Species. Conservation plan will include Upland Wildlife Management (645) addressing essential habitat needs of identified specie(s).	10
Benefits to endangered and threaten species will not occur	2

Score

- A) TOTAL POINTS FOR NON-CONVERSION CONSIDERATION (Category B.1+B.2 B.3+B.4+B.5+B.6) (Maximum allowed points is 70 points)**

EVALUATION CRITERIA (continued)

Circle correct Value

Score

B) TOTAL POINTS FOR THREAT TO CONVERSION (Total of Category A from page 2)

TOTAL POINT VALUE FOR OFFERED AREA (Add totals of A + B)
Maximum allowable points A + B

165

Evaluation Completed By: (signatures)

Designated Conservationist

Date

Applicant

Date